PANCHAYATI RAJ

OCTOBER 1961

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, RURAL EXTENSION TRAINING CENTRE
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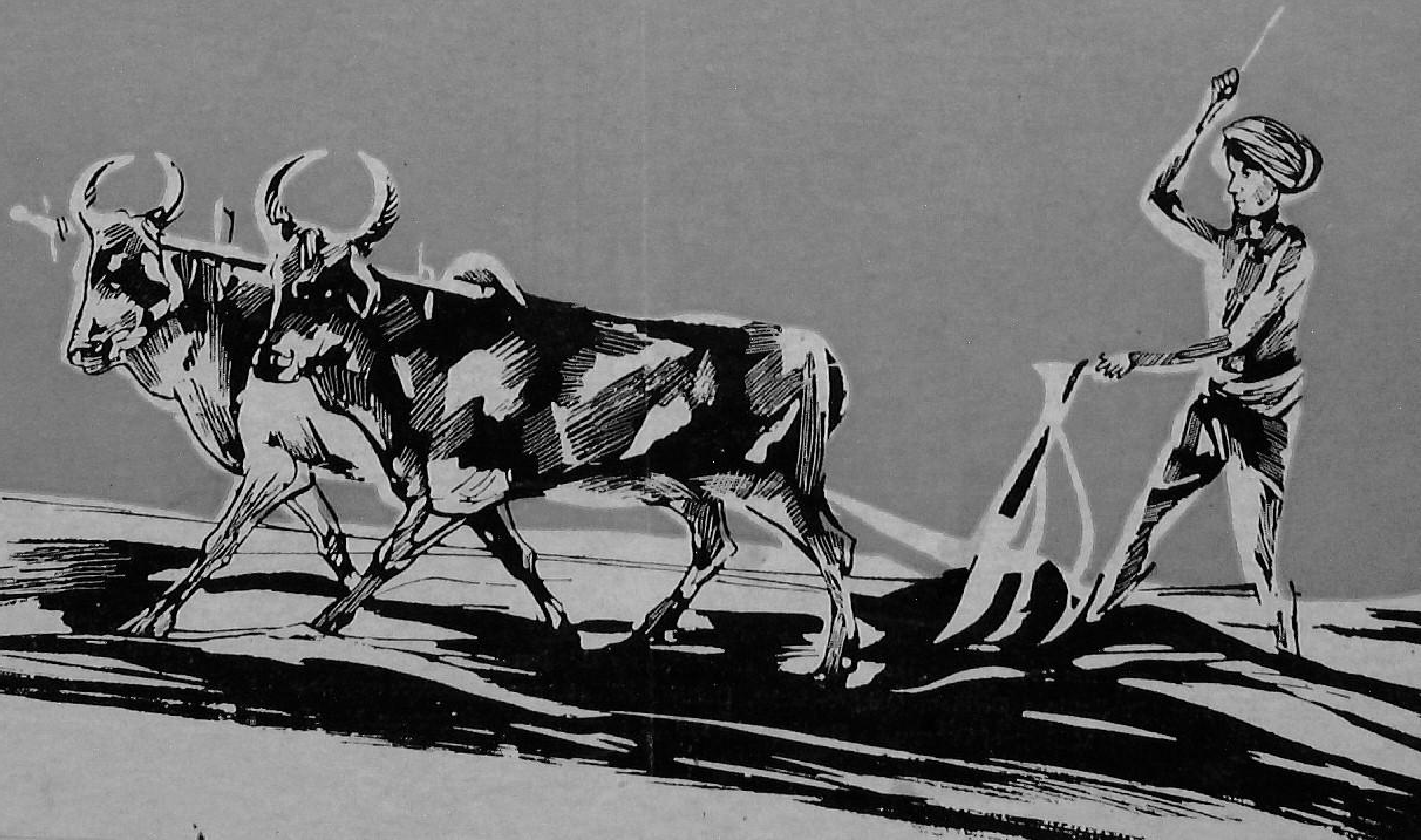

PANCHAYATI RAJ

(Incorporating Gram Sevak)

Vol. II

KARTIK-1883

OCTOBER 1961

No. 7

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Editor : R. N. GUPTA

BUSINESS NOTICE

Single Copy : 15 nP.

Annual : Rs. 1·25

All enquiries regarding agency, rates of subscription and advertisement may be addressed to the Business Manager, Publications Division, Old Secretariat, Delhi-6. Editorial correspondence may be addressed to the Editor, Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.

MESSAGE

S. K. Dey

PANCHAYATI RAJ is on the march. It is significant that the vital State of Punjab will launch this programme on October 2, the birthday of Bapu and the tenth birthday of the Community Development programme.

When partition came in the wake of our Independence, Punjab got dissected into two. Eastern Punjab was relatively the backward part of the combined Punjab. From dire backwardness in every sense of the term, the eastern Punjab has already grown into a flourishing State humming with the activities of the people, and prosperity growing in every direction. This has happened despite all the strains and stresses of rehabilitation both of the people and of the Government.

Punjab has solid accomplishment to her credit in the field of Community Development despite heavy handicaps. With Panchayati Raj sweeping the State, the entire rural population will come under the new pattern of administration. The Government agency hereafter will be guided and directed by the representatives of the people at each level of action.

The Ministry of Community Development at the Centre and the people of India look forward to an outstanding account from the vital people of Punjab in the implementation of Community Development through the new system of Panchayati Raj. Punjab should give a lead as to what a vital people can do when they acquire the authority to run their affairs themselves.

I send to the people of Punjab my most cordial wishes on this historic occasion.

[*The above message was given on the occasion of the launching of Panchayati Raj in the Punjab on the 2nd October 1961 —Ed.*]

Panchayati Raj Elections

Vishnu Dutt

IT WAS DURING one of the meetings of the Informal Consultative Committee of the Lok Sabha on Community Development that I heard a lady M.P. from Uttar Pradesh remarking, "I have been and am still an ardent admirer of Panchayati Raj. But from what I have seen in my district (Aligarh), I shudder to think of its consequences." "Thirty-three murders", she added, "have so far taken place in connection with the Panchayati Raj elections. And if that is where Panchayati Raj is to lead us to, kindly cry halt to it till we are able to hold elections without having to spill blood of our brothren".

BULLET Versus BALLOT

The statement makes one ask the question whether we are going in the right direction. It may be that the particular incident referred to above has been rather extraordinary. But then exception proves the rule. It does go to indicate that under the present state of mental, cultural and social development of our village people, there are possibilities, no matter however scarce, of election issues being sought to be settled by bullet rather than ballot. This is the very negation of the democratic approach which is the basis of Panchayati Raj. This is a serious matter and calls for rethinking on the part of all concerned.

While it is true that it would be fantastic to draw any generalisations on the basis of such stray incidents, it would be equally wrong to deny that the Panchayat elections have left the village communities more divided than before. This is the impression that one gathers from the result of elections held recently in Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. This is not a healthy development particularly at a time when disruptive forces born out of linguistic, regional and religious distinctions are raising their ugly head and threatening the unity and security of the country. Nothing would be more disastrous than if disruption and disintegration spread to the five and a half lac villages. This will spell the tragic finale to the long and chequered course of history through which the villages have managed to subsist till now as compact units in spite of the greatest upheavals taking place in the cities and capital of India. Indeed it was this inherent capacity of the village communities to exist and persist that had drawn the admiration of Sir Charles Metcalf who had described them as the "Indestructible atoms that seem to last where nothing else lasts".

HARMFUL CAUSES

Election time is a time of intense activity and heated controversies any time and any where. The heat and activity is bound to be greater in elections to comparatively smaller bodies like the Village Panchayats, where the electorate know each other so well that the "personal" element comes into play. That explains why the Panchayat elections held recently in various states have generated greater interest that even the general elections. And consequently, the dent created in the unity of the community is more serious. It will be admitted that the average villager, though illiterate, knows and respects the discipline of the ballot. The difficulty arises when he transgresses the legitimate limits. What are those safe limits? An analysis will reveal that though differences of opinion and outlook are bound to exist between different members in a democratic society, there are some which are more serious and harmful than others. Such, for example, are the differences based on personal likes and dislikes, family feuds, caste and communal distinctions. All-out efforts should be made to

eliminate these causes. Obviously, the desired results can be obtained only through a systematic educative campaign and not through any legislative or compulsory measures superimposed from above.

POLITICAL DIFFERENCES

Differing political ideologies are a fruitful source of sowing dissensions amongst the electorate. Luckily, the political factor has not made inroads into the Panchayati Raj elections to a very great extent so far. The reasons are not far to seek. In the first place, the villagers are not very much politically conscious; secondly, the welfare and development schemes carried out at and below the district level are not as amenable to the impact of political policies and programmes as those at the higher levels; thirdly, the three-tier system of Panchayati Raj up to the District level has not been linked with the higher political structure so that it has been immunised from the pulls and pressures of political parties for the time being. It has, however, been argued that this state of affairs cannot continue for long. We cannot have two different systems of elections—one for Panchayati Raj institutions up to the District level and the other above that level. Besides, in case the three-tier structure is extended so as to include the above two higher tiers as well, the political parties will necessarily concentrate their election efforts down to the lowest level. Be that as it may, in course of time, the villagers will also have received practical training in election technique and have become sufficiently politically conscious so as to resist the evil effects of electioneering. But during the transitional stage, it is decidedly more expedient not to allow political virus to go down below the district level. As suggested by Shri Jayaprakash Narain, a "gentleman's agreement" between various political parties not to set up their candidates in the Panchayati Raj elections, will go a long way towards maintaining the equilibrium in the villages.

SPORTSMAN SPIRIT

It is often said that villagers have not yet learnt to contest elections in a sportsman spirit. The candidate who wins should learn to look after the interests of the community as a whole including those that opposed him during elections, and the losing candidate should learn to take his defeat without any feeling of rancour or animosity against the winning candidate. Because of the smallness of the constituency and the accent on personal factor in these elections it is no doubt somewhat difficult for him to outgrow his egoistic and self-centred nature. But it will be wrong to blame him for this lapse on his part. He has had no such opportunities in the past. He will learn through 'trial and error' method. The Government have an obligation to educate and train him in this respect. Voluntary organisations can help a lot in this educative campaign.

UNANIMOUS ELECTIONS

To avoid bad blood between opposing candidates, it has been suggested that Panchayati Raj elections should be unanimous or near unanimous. This is easier said than done. It stipulates the existence of a catalytic agent in the form of impartial and influential individuals or a voluntary organisation capable of bringing about unanimity in the decision to select candidates. Other measures providing for incentives in the form of land remission and grant of subsidies have been tried with varying success in different states. But these are mere palliatives. Indeed as was rightly pointed out by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan sometimes back, the results might be even deceptive. The unanimity in elections may be skin-deep and not heart-deep.

PERMANENT SOLUTION

Real unity and cohesion whether at the time of elections or later, cannot be evolved overnight like a rabbit out of a juggler's hat. Consistent efforts have to be made over a number of years to build the real community spirit which will reflect itself through the operation of Panchayati Raj. By working out co-operatively the various development schemes meant for the welfare and prosperity of the individuals as well as the community, the villagers will develop the community spirit. The members of the Gaon Sabha know each other thoroughly well and it is not wholly impossible for

(*Continued on page* 5)

LETTERS

A Wideawake Gram Sabha

Sir,

I AM glad to acknowledge the receipt of your* monthly letter, dated August 14, 1961, speaking about the ten-point test for Panchayati Raj as a new charter capable of transmitting the understanding of this from Lok Sabha to the Gram Sabha. I do hope that the basic data for the eleventh National Conference will spring from within the Gram Sabha.

A "Gram Sabha" in village Matunda, Panchayat Samiti Talera (District Bundi) was organised on 12th instant in which about 1,000 adult persons (the electorate of the Panchayat), all the Vikas Adhikaries, Up-Pramukh Zila Parishad, Pradhans, Sarpanches and District Level Officers participated. The Collector and District Development Officer, Bundi, in his opening address, *inter alia*, pointed out, "If the village people can constitute an enlightened and wideawake "Gram Sabha" as a forum, more or less like the Parliament, the Panchayats cannot go astray. If the Panchayats do not behave in one day, they will do so in course of time after receiving a knock or two in the Gram Sabha. Besides, this provides an opportunity where the various development programmes can be properly explained to the village people."

After some discussion on the progress report, budget and the targets for 1961-62, decisions were taken on various issues. The village community for the first time experienced that the elected Panchayat body was answerable to them as is the Cabinet of Ministers in the Lok Sabha. They felt they could strengthen the hands of their Panchayat in the implementation of their development plans and secure free technical assistance from the District Level Officers.

22-8-61 Yours etc.
Bundi, *G. K. Dutta,*
Pramukh, Zila Parishad.
Rajasthan.

(* *The monthly letter referred to above was from Shri S. K. Dey, Union Minister for Community Development & Co-operation.—Ed.*)

Van Mahotsava

Sir,

On 31st July the Governor of Rajasthan inaugurated VAN MAHOTSAVA by planting trees in the grounds of the Rajasthan University at Jaipur. Planting trees in Rajasthan is a difficult task. Last year, in Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Jodhpur and other districts, plants were planted in large numbers mainly with a view to check the march of the desert. But very few of them have survived.

In Gangapur district, out of about one lac trees planted hardly a few thousand have survived. This year, two and a half lac trees are to be planted. Based on our experience of previous years, we may safely guess that a very small percentage of these trees will survive. The preservation of trees in desert-like conditions is no doubt a difficult task. It is for the specialists to try in their laboratories and suggest the types and species of trees which can withstand the vagaries of nature in Rajasthan. Otherwise all attempts at planting trees during Vana Mahotsava would be sheer waste of energy, time and national wealth.

3-8-61 Yours etc.
Narendra Dabker
Block Level Officers',
Regional Co-operative
Training Centre,
Kotah, Rajasthan.

Utilisation of Urban Waste

Sir,

There is a considerable shortage of manure and fertilisers for raising crops. Wherever possible compost manure should be prepared by decomposing farm waste and such other matter in pits. It is high time that a campaign should be started for the conservation of urban waste, garbage, and sewage and its utilisation for manurial purposes. Enormous quantities of such urban waste material which can be turned into good organic manure is going waste at present. Ways and means should be found for utilising it properly for the production of food crops. I do admit that city garbage contains such harmful material as broken glasses, iron nails and such other sharp materials. This drawback can be got over if a method for pulverising the garbage can be adopted. If garbage of every city in the country is conserved and made suitable for manure, then enormous amount of manure will become available. It can be supplied to the farms near about cities at cheap rates. This manure will go a long way in preserving the fertility of our soil and increasing the yield of crops. So conservation and utilisation of our urban garbage, sewage, and other waste material should be done on more or less similar footing as compost-making in the rural areas.

25-7-61 Yours etc.

V. D. Malgavakar

Post. Jaglbet,
Via Londa.
BANGALORE.

About S.E.O.s

Sir,

S.E.O.s are being posted under the Education Department. But most of their duties are identical to those of the Publicity Department. Duties like Organising Bhajan Mandalis, film shows, Burrakathas, and V.L.T. camps are similar to those performed by the District Public Relations Officers. So, it will be better if they are transferred to the Public Relations Department, and their designation is accordingly changed to that of Extension Officer (Public Relations) instead of S.E.O. In my opinion it is better to keep them under the control of the District Public Relations Officer at the district level.

Yours etc.

Hanmanth Rao

P.O. Malyal,
Distt. Karimnager (A.P.)

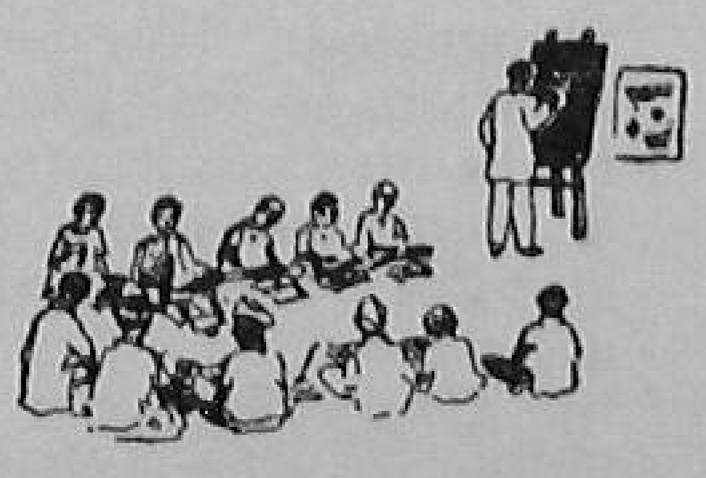
(While we agree that some of the duties performed by the S.E.O.s are identical to those of Public Relations Officers, we cannot lose sight of the fact that the role of an S.E.O. is essentially that of an educator and in that respect is different from that of a publicist—Ed.)

* * *

PANCHAYATI RAJ ELECTIONS

(Continued from page 3)

them to screen out leaders who have served the community to the best of their ability. An Evaluation Report of the panchayat elections held in Rajasthan does point out that the majority of unanimous elections were from smaller Gram Sabhas, that is where the members knew each other more thoroughly and closely. The prospective candidates have to take a leaf out of the past and imbibe in them the wisdom and experience which guided the panches of old to look upon the entire village as one family and who had learnt to "rise and fall together". In that case, their unanimous selection by the Gaon Sabha will be a foregone conclusion. Thus alone can a permanent solution be found of the various problems emerging from Panchayati Raj and its elections.



Lok Sabha Questions

Q. What steps have the Government taken to encourage unanimity at Panchayati Raj elections and with what results?

Ans. Unanimity in elections to Panchayati Raj institutions can be brought about only by a concerted effort to create the necessary public opinion in the country and also by appealing to the political parties to refrain from contesting the elections to these bodies on a party basis. A suggestion was made to the State Governments to make provision of certain incentives in the form of additional financial allocations etc. to institutions having unanimity and cohesion.

The Assam State Government approached political parties not to run elections on party basis, with the result that election to 43% of the seats was without contest. In Bihar, unanimous return of Sarpanches in Gram Panchayat elections has been made one of the conditions for promotion of a Panchayat of the third and second categories to the second and first categories respectively. The Punjab Government launched an intensive propaganda before the Panchayat elections in December, 1960, to encourage unanimity. In 4,103 out of 13,440 Panchayats, both Panches and Sarpanches were elected unanimously. In 298 Panchayats only Sarpanches were elected unanimously. In 878 Panchayats only Panches were elected unanimously. In Panchayats where Panches and Sarpanches have all been elected unopposed the land revenue for one year for the Panchayat area concerned will be sanctioned as a grant to the Panchayat for local development works. Where either the Sarpanch or the Panches have been returned unopposed 33% of the land revenue for one year will be given to the Panchayat. A provision of about Rs. 43 lakhs has been made in the current year's budget for this purpose. Before the general elections to the Panchayats in December, 1960, the Rajasthan Government notified that Panchayats whose Sarpanch and 80% of Panches were returned unanimously, would be given a special grant of 25 nP. per head of its population for the full term of its life in addition to the usual grant-in-aid. 27.2% of the total number of Panchayats registered unanimous elections and qualified for this additional grant.

Q. Are Gram Sabhas functioning under the Panchayati Raj in various States? If so, what has been the experience?

Ans. Gram Sabha, as a legal entity, is statutorily recognised in the States of Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. In Mysore and Rajasthan it is provided that before a meeting of all adult residents of the village the statement of accounts, the report on the administration for the preceding year and the programme of work proposed for the year following are to be read out. Andhra Pradesh is proposing to make suitable provision for the constitution of Gram Sabhas in the integrated Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Bill, 1961, which is before the Legislature. In Kerala and Madras the Gram Sabha has not so far been statutorily recognised. The general experience has been that the response and participation of villagers have been quite encouraging. The Annual Conference on Community Development and the Conference of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj held recently at Hyderabad reiterated the need for statutory recognition of the Gram Sabha and outlined the functions to be assigned to it. For the purpose of holding meetings, where the size of the Gram Sabha is unwieldy, the Conferences suggested that the Gram Sabha may be split up into groups of convenient size and each group may meet separately to discharge the various functions. The recommendations have been communicated to the State Governments for implementation.

Q. What steps have been taken by Government to improve upon the training of non-official members of the Block Development Committees with a view to fulfil the needs of Panchayati Raj?

Ans. : The attendance, participation and discussions by the trained members of Block Development Committees/Panchayat Samitis at the meetings of the Block Development Committees/Panchayat Samitis, by and large, indicate a better appreciation of their role vis-a-vis the Community Development Programme. The following steps have been suggested to the State Governments to improve the training programme:—

1. Where institutional training has not been found successful, peripatetic system of training may be introduced.

2. Training may be imparted during slack seasons.

3. Training programme may be drawn up well in advance.

4. In one meeting of the Block Development Committee, the Block Development Officer should explain the significance and advantages of the training.

5. Block, District and Divisional officers including technical experts may be invited to the training camps.

6. The Informal Consultative Committee at the State level and its training sub-committee as also the Zila Parishad should be fully brought into the picture.

7. To make up for the short-falls in attendance, 50 per cent more than or even double the required number of members should be invited.

A proposal to start District Institutes for training non-official functionaries is under active consideration.

Q. What progress has been made so far regarding conversion of peripatetic camps for training of Primary School teachers into their regular training course?

Ans. : The peripatetic teams of training were disbanded with effect from 1st August, 1960. The training is now imparted in 11 Social Education Organisers' Training Centres. So far 406 members of the staff and 447 Headmasters/Principals of the Primary School Teachers Training Colleges have been given orientation training for 4 weeks and 3 days respectively at these centres.

Q. What advice has the Planning Commission given with regard to the question of expenditure on salaries and allowances paid to non-officials in Panchayati Raj by the States?

Ans. : The question of payment of honoraria to the non-official office bearers of Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads was considered by the Central Committee on Community Development on which the Planning Commission is represented. The Committee decided that it would be better not to pay salaries as such but only a fixed sum for out-of-pocket expenses including travelling allowance etc. This question was further considered at the Conference of State Ministers of Community Development and Panchayati Raj held at Hyderabad in July, 1961. The Planning Commission participated in this Conference. The Conference decided that the Chairmen of Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads may be given travelling allowances, daily allowances etc., to meet their out-of-pocket expenses or a consolidated allowance in lieu thereof. The quantum of these allowances, however, may be decided by the State Governments taking into consideration the local conditions.

Some States have already provided for payment of honorarium/salary to these persons. They have been requested to reconsider the question in the light of the recommendation of Hyderabad Conference with a view to give a consolidated allowance to these persons instead of salary/honorarium. Other States, which have not provided salary/honorarium to these persons, have been requested to take suitable action to give them T.A. and D.A. etc. or a consolidated allowance in lieu thereof.

National Integration

The greatest problem confronting us to-day is how to overcome the disruptionist tendencies and disintegrating forces that have come to the fore in the name of caste, religion, language or State. These forces are threatening to shatter the unity of India and setting at naught all national efforts aimed at the cultural and economic development of the country. In a situation fraught with such potential danger to the unity and security of the country, the aim of Panchayati Raj institutions which have been conceived to forge unity and compactness among various communities constituting the nation, is clear beyond doubt. In the words of Shri S. K. Dey, Minister for Community Development and Co-operation, "The C.D. programme has paved the way for the emotional integration of the nation. It is now for the Panchayati Raj institutions to nurture and strengthen it". We have to be very cautious in conducting the elections to Panchayati Raj institutions in a way that does not add to the already existing confusion and complexity. The desirability of having unanimous or near unanimous elections as far as possible is only too clear.

It was at a recent meeting of Chief Ministers of the States, presided over by the Prime Minister, that this all important question of national integration was considered in all its aspects—cultural, educational, administrative and linguistic. Below we give for the benefit of our readers a few important decisions arrived at during this meeting.—Ed.

IT SHOULD be made a penal offence for any individual or group to advocate secession of any part of the country from the Indian Union.

* * *

MORE ALL-INDIA Services should be constituted. The principle of having All-India Services in the Engineering, Medical and Forestry departments was accepted. The rule of rotation of officers in the existing All-India Services between the Centre and the States should be more rigorously followed. It would be desirable to have in every High Court some Judges drawn from outside the State.

* * *

THE RIGHT of linguistic minorities to have instruction in their mother tongue at the primary stage of education was reaffirmed.

At the secondary stage of education, it was recommended that the following three languages should be taught:

(a) the regional language or mother tongue when the latter is different from the regional language;

(b) Hindi or, in Hindi speaking areas, another Indian language; and

(c) English or any other modern European language.

* * *

ON THE QUESTION of medium of instruction at the University level, the meeting held that the tendency of regional languages to become the media for University education, though desirable in many ways, may well lead to the isolation of such Universities from the rest of India unless there is a link in the shape of an all-India language. Such a common link can only be English or Hindi. Ultimately it will have to be Hindi, and it is necessary, therefore, that every attempt should be made to make Hindi suitbale for this purpose. The changeover to Hindi and generally to a regional language as a medium of education will only be effective when such language has adequately developed for

(*Continued on page 20*)

Blind Majnu Leads Shramdan

Who would not be moved at the sight of a blind man along with his blind sister offering shramdan? It was in village Singarpur of the Pandaria Development Block in Madhya Pradesh that one Majnu, a blind Harijan along with his blind sister offered shramdan towards the construction of a public drinking water well. The blind man with his zeal infused a crusading spirit among the people who completed the well in record time.

In Singarpur, the Harijans used to drink water from a muddy pool, as all other water resources were prohibited to them. One day the Block Development Officer visited the village and came to know of their plight. He assured them of a public drinking water well if only they could contribute their share in the form of 'Shramdan'. After a little discussion a site was selected. The Harijans resolved to do their bit. Led by blind Majnu, they started digging the well. Day and night they worked hard digging earth and throwing it out in baskets. After some days' labour water came out. The well was ready. It was an occasion of joy and merriment for all the young and the old in the village. Thanks to the inspiring leadership of Blind Majnu that the Harijans were able to have a well of their own.

* * * * *

Kerala Farmer Achieves Record Yield

Vasudevan Pillai by raising a record yield of 7,280 lbs. of paddy per acre (seven times more than what an average farmer grows in Kerala) has once more proved the fact that in farming it is not the size of the land that matters so much as the care and effort that one bestows on it.

Winner of the first prize in the Block level crop competition, he believes that farming could be a sound business proposition. The secret of his success is deep ploughing, good seed, manure and adequate supply of water at the proper time.

He took to farming only about six years ago. Earlier he worked as a clerk to a lawyer in Trivandrum on a small salary. When he became the head of the family, he moved to his ancestral land in Andoorkonam village in Kezhakoottom, about ten miles north of Trivandrum and took to farming as a profession.

Pillai lays great emphasis on 'preparing the land'. He ploughs 7″ to 9″ deep four times, adding plenty of green manure and compost. He raises the required quantity of green manure from his farm itself. He uses the best seed in consultation with the Block Agricultural Extension Officer. He shows keen interest in farm literature and makes use of whatever information is available.

Pillai is a prominent man in the local Farmers' Club. He is actively associated with the various programmes of the Block and helps in running arecanut, coconut and tapioca nurseries.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

P. Balasu

ON THE auspicious second of October, 1952, I was born. Soon my tribe increased in number. In a couple of years, from now, it will exceed five thousand. My race is evenly spread throughout India, be it in Batala or Garo or Kanya Kumari.

Though less than a decade old, I am perhaps the best known functionary in the countryside. I am very cosmopolitan in character. Men drawn from all departments are to be found in my flock. Age too has been no barrier. From youngmen of twenty-five, enthusiastic and energetic to mature greying persons of fifty can be met within the fold.

My sole aim is to serve the rural public. Believe me, I have no faith in lording over the countryside. I only wish to do my best to remove the stagnation that has set in villages which were once humming hives of activity. In this uphill task, may I have the sympathy and blessings of all of you?

Extension Main Occupation

I am not a new "His Highness" out to set up my own empire. Please note that I am primarily an extension worker. And extension is education of rural people to change their outlook and help them attain a high standard of life. In this role, I always keep the cardinal principles of (i) the development of the village family in its relationship to the village and the rest of the world and (ii) help people to help themselves. I strive to help the people to think themselves and tackle their own problems. Programmes like agricultural development, cattle improvement, social education and health improvement are merely the means to achieve this aim. Perhaps you might next ask me how far I am equipped to fit into this role. My training in the O.T. Centre, stands me in good stead. It has gone a long way in trimming the ugly corners and developing the correct attitudes. Still better purpose would be served if these teaching institutions have teachers with field experience rather than "theorists" who have perhaps a foreign degree to their credit.

Programme Planner

My second role is that of a programme planner. First, the felt-needs of the people have to be ascertained. The block budget, the normal budget, of the departments with the minimum targets fixed under the state Five-Year Plans have to be kept in view while preparing the plans. Also the potentialities of "Self-Help" schemes have to be properly assessed. The plans are finalised after consultations with colleagues (E.Os. & V.L.Ws.), mature deliberations in standing committees and Samiti meetings. The guidance of the District Officers is also sought for. The task of fixing priorities is very important. Increased agricultural production naturally takes the pride of place in this process.

The Programme Planner

OF A B. D. O.

hmanyam

I have also to act as a programme evaluator. A clear watch has to be kept over the progress or lack of it so that deficiencies and shortcomings, if any, may be removed while planning for the next year's programme.

As Administrator

My role as an administrator also invokes strange notions in the minds of most other administrators. Bossing is absent in my tribe. All are treated as colleagues. Believe me—my inspections are more in the nature of joint participation and to me audit is for guidance. I believe in two-way traffic inasmuch as I take freely ideas from V.L.Ws. and E.Os. and impart mine to them. But I observe all the normal formalities in my relations with district officers and my bosses. I do not want them to misunderstand me (for I know they lack my training and my outlook).

Administrative Headache

My Headache

With the advent of Panchayati Raj my role has become difficult. The conflict between the elected chief and the official chief has come to the fore. In all these I have been a victim rightly or wrongly. It is sometimes wondered whether with a manager in the office, I could not be done away with and the elected chief himself take the executive powers. But let me add here that it is too early to assess the Panchayati Raj. Honestly my work-load in Panchayati Raj has gone two-fold. I have not only to implement the resolutions of the samiti but also to serve as a mentor. True, patience has been tried greatly but let me proudly say that this virtue is the badge of our tribe. Otherwise in States where democratic decentralisation has been introduced, I should have been a casualty already. Lack of sympathy from superior officers, sometimes inability to accommodate non-officials, a near non-co-operative attitude of district officers, and exploitation of my colleagues and their acquaintances by influential samiti members have all been veritable headaches to me. Also the future seems to be bleak. There is discrimination within the same fold. Some are called "Gazetted" while others are "not". Being too much troubled—some members of my race have begun to think in terms of returning to their parent departments. The exodus seems to have already begun. But I am sure this is only a passing phase. And something will be done to keep the members of my tribe satisfied who on their part will feel like 'fish out of water' in any other place. They must live and die for welfare and development work.

U. N. DAY 1961

IN RECENT YEARS a new kind of anniversary has been added to the calendar of great occasions. It is one that is international in origin and universal in observance. It belongs to no single nation, but is shared by all. It does honour to and is honoured by peoples of many different faiths and philosophies but its unique quality is that it emphasizes the common ties that unite them. It is the anniversary that all lands and peoples can acclaim—United Nations Day.

The event it commemorates is the coming into force of the United Nations Charter on October 24, 1945. The signing of the Charter and the establishment of the United Nations Organization represented the beginning of the greatest effort by the peoples of the world to be rid of war and to build together a better peace.

Prime Minister Nehru addressing the United Nations General Assembly in New York on October 3, 1960 describing the main purpose of the United Nations said, "Without peace all our dreams vanish and are reduced to ashes. The Charter of the United Nations declares our determination to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights...and for these ends to practise tolerance and live together in peace and with one another as good neighbours. The main purpose of the United Nations is to build up a world without war, a world based on the cooperation of nations and peoples. It is not merely a world where war is kept in check for a balancing of armed forces. It is much deeper than that. It is a world from which the major causes of war have been removed and social structures built up which further peaceful cooperation within a nation as well as between nations."

NOBILITY OF PURPOSE

A rare unity of purpose went to the founding of the United Nations and partnership and solidarity were its cornerstone. As a human endeavour, it is not without its imperfections; but fifteen years' experience has confirmed the nobility of its purpose and the necessity of international cooperation as the means to achieve that purpose. The world needs the United Nations more than ever. The fact that full application of all the Charter provisions has not been possible because of continuing mistrust does not invalidate the Charter; rather it underlines the importance of the United Nations as the means for those contacts and negotiations, public and private, most likely to heal conflict without loss of prestige to either side, and for reducing the dangers to peace.

In the economic field, the disinterested research, surveys and planning carried out by the United Nations have helped provide the ground-work on which sound national and regional economic policies can be based. Multinational aid channelled through the United Nations has the added value that both donor and recipient nations participate as partners and that the aid given or received carries no political or psychological obligations.

India as a founder-member of the United Nations and deeply dedicated to the principles and purposes of the U.N. Charter has during these years played an active and important role in the furtherance of ideals—peace and prosperity of mankind. India's development plans are best examples of the practical implementation of a concept which is basic to the whole economic and social activity of the United Nations that peace and progress is indivisible, that the Charter promise of "social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom" is for mankind as a whole, and that the effort to achieve these goals must be a truly international effort.

Through the mechanism of U.N. assistance India's towns and villages, industrial and scientific centres have received the maximum financial and technical assistance in the last decade. The U.N. is vitally interested in India's welfare and works as a silent

partner in India's development plans. The participation of the U.N. is scattered all over the country in various fields including taming the erratic Hooghly, poultry raising in Orissa, power engineering research in Bangalore and the establishment of technical training institutes in several centres of India.

To those who come in contact with one or more of these efforts of the U.N. in India to assist its development plans, the United Nations is no longer an abstract organisation dealing with just the world beyond but one in which they have a mutual interest, a common purpose and a goal.

EXPANDED NUTRITION PROGRAMME

Let us take just one example. Miss Low, a U.N. expert on nutrition may be known to many a villager or extension worker in Orissa. Her task under an Expanded Nutrition Programme in which the Food and Agriculture Organization is associated was to supervise food distribution schemes in school and the improvement of food practices in the home through nutrition education starting first in 80 chosen villages.

In cooperation with an FAO expert on horticulture and an FAO expert in poultry production, the villagers were helped to obtain poultry units for eggs and meat and seeds to grow fruit and vegetables in school gardens. They were also assisted in getting fingerlings for their fish ponds and tanks. Then a portion of the eggs, fish and vegetables raised by the villagers was set aside by the village women associations to be used as part of food schemes for pre-school children, nursing and pregnant mothers. These same fruits and vegetables plus milk donated by the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) also were used in feeding programmes for the village school children.

However, the key to better nutrition lies in education and so training schemes were set up at Bhuvaneswar and Barpali, staffed by local people and supervised by Miss Low. Women trainees were divided into three groups: the village women, the village worker or gram sevika and the head village worker or Mukhya Sevika and the training was begun.

There are 145 UN experts from abroad serving in India in 1961. 99 Indian experts sent by the United Nations are serving in many countries where Indian experience was particularly useful in solving problems of development including community development and agriculture.

SANITATION PILOT PROJECT

Villagers in Uttar Pradesh near Chinhat and Meerut know intimately the work done by a UN expert in a pilot project for improving water supplies and excreta disposal. In this project a sanitation programme is being carried out including the design, operation and maintenance of simple, practical and cheap sanitary installations. A programme of health education has been organized. In addition technicians are trained in sanitary installations. In Chinhat and Meerut areas over 1,000 latrines each have been installed so far. Besides a number of tube wells and filtered point wells have also been constructed to improve the water supply. In fact this pilot project has been received very well in U.P. and is making very good progress. A similar environmental project which was started in Kerala in 1956 has got on among the villagers of Kerala and has now become a part of the regular programme under the assistance of the World Health Organization.

When the Indian villager is aware that in every one of these and many other projects in India the world community through the United Nations is deeply interested in its progress and prosperity, then the United Nations has a meaning which is more significant than an institution which is just concerned with the maintenance of world peace but which tends to translate that world peace into the hearths and homes of every living human being. This concern and this interest in his welfare comes from a consciousness of the world community that peace and prosperity is indivisible. The villager in India has full obligations to the world community to be conscious of their interests and their prosperity. This common bondage is the pledge we take on this universal day, United Nations Day, on October 24, every year. This is the Voice of Mankind.

WHERE WOMEN HESITATED TO BE BRIDES

Narendra Sahai Saxena

KUNARI TOWNSHIP of about 250 households is situated on the bank of Chambal river, opposite Kotah town. This township had been rather unfortunate in as much as it was located on the hard stones of the Chambal banks where no well could be sunk. The inhabitants had to subsist on Chambal water and it was a herculean task to fetch water from that distance. The whole burden of bringing water fell to the lot of women. The result was that their span of life was very short. Only unfortunate girls were married there. In the rainy season, the whole population used to suffer as a result of the muddy water of the river. And remember all these sufferings were because of the rivalries of the chiefs of Kunari and Palaitha during the princely days.

Kotah has had waterworks for several decades but Kunari could not get a drop of it, because Palaitha Apji who was the prime minister of Kotah State did not want it. Independence came and Rajasthan was formed. The Kunari people were inspired by a new hope, but all efforts by the men folk to instal water works proved abortive. They were disappointed. Their sympathies were no doubt towards their womenfolk but they had never experienced the hard toil gnawing at life itself that the women had long been suffering from. They ceased to try.

* * *

But the women of Kunari determined to get rid of their long suffering, held their meeting to select a delegation of elderly women. One fine morning the delegation knocked at the collector's residence. The collector pleaded his inability to help them and tried to explain to them the whole situation. But they would not listen. They impressed upon him that they must get the water works by hook or by crook. The collector was invited to see their privations for himself.

The collector came suddenly to the village one day. He did not want to encounter them. But the women were vigilant and within a few minutes surrounded him. An old woman complained that, even for four annas a pitcher, none brought her water. Another told him that her two sons had not been married because the township was dreaded so much. A young woman began to abuse her parents for her marriage there. Another complained that her life had been made extremely miserable due to continual exhaustion. She had lost all charm in life. Every minute the fetching of water from the Chambal bank haunted her.

The collector himself went to the spot and saw for himself the hard ordeal to which the women were subjected daily. It was decided that the Kotah Waterworks should supply water to the township.

Estimates of works amounting to Rs. 69,000 were prepared. Out of this amount, one third expenditure was to be borne by the people. This took away all the enthusiasm of the villagers. The men declared that the amount was beyond their means. But the project was next to the housewives' hearts. They again called a meeting and held group discussions while fetching water or fuel. They became determined more than ever to achieve their objective. And when a woman makes her firm determination, who can shake her out of it?

Ornaments were offered, hidden savings unearthed. And with the generous help of the Chief, the quota of public contributions was overreached.

The Ravan of Kunari

But their troubles were not yet all over. This time opposition came from within. A section of the people pleaded, "As the water will be available to the housewives next door, they will become

(Continued on page 20)

COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE

The Prize Incentive

IN THE Devarakonda Panchayat Samiti in Kurnool District, Andhra Pradesh, the President of the Samiti and two Presidents of Panchayats have donated Rs. 100 each for the institution of 3 Running Cups.—one for the ryot who adopts Japanese method of paddy cultivation exclusively in a year; the second for the best Grama Sahayak in the Samiti and the third for the School which secures the highest percentage of enrolment of children in primary schools.

* * *

The Story of Gomaram

The people of Gomaram in the Narsapur Panchayat Samiti (Andhra Pradesh), with a population of 600, have cleaned up their village, filled the ditches and straightened the streets measuring two miles entirely through shramdan. The work on this project lasted for about two months. On an average, 50 villagers worked every day for three hours in the morning. The degree of enthusiasm aroused by the project would be obvious from the fact that a well which blocked the road, was filled up within three hours. Owners of three houses which posed obstruction agreed to their being demolished, in order that the road alignment could be straightened.

Experiment with Cashew Nut

The little village of Nallapalli, which was once the seat of a big talukdar, now prides itself for having won the district level prize for agricultural production. The area under the Japanese method of cultivation has risen from 10 acres in 1953 to 108 acres in 1959. A progressive farmer of this village, R. Besha Rao, has also started a new experiment of raising cashew nuts, a crop unknown in this part of Andhra Pradesh. If this experiment succeeds, the farmers from the neighbouring villages, who anxiously look for the results, will also be adopting this new cash crop.

* * *

Plantation of Wild Pomegranate Trees

To help agriculturists in the lower hills of Himachal, to increase their per acre income, the Kunihar Block Development authorities have started plantation of wild pomegranate trees on barren lands, field boundaries and steep hill sides where there are no crops. Already about 10,000 trees have been planted and it is expected that after about six years the agriculturists will have an income of Rs. 2,000 per acre. About 4,000 plants would be grown in an acre. It is also proposed to do grafting on these trees so that quality pomegranate could be grown and marketed. Subsidy is being given towards the cost of the plants and the Block authorities also provide the technical know-how. It is proposed to plant one lakh trees a year. The bark as also the fruit of the pomegranate tree is marketable.

* * *

A Panchayat Samiti Shows the Way

Frequent meetings of the gram sabhas seem to be the secret of success of Rajasthan's Shrinagar panchayat samiti near Ajmer which won the State award for the best samiti in Rajasthan last year and this year's prize for the best samiti in Ajmer district. It controls 37 panchayats which covers an area of 380 sq. miles. Though the Block Development Officer need call

such a meeting only once in six months, the villagers are keen on holding monthly meetings for according to them, this ensures equitable distribution of loans and grants. In addition to loans and grants and voluntary contributions, the samiti meets its expenditure by collecting taxes amounting to Rs. 25,000 a year. The highest tax, Rs. 25 a year is levied on the moneylender while the lowest is a cess of 30 nP levied on each family for the provision of primary education. There are also taxes of Rs. 25 on mills and a cess of 50 nP. per rupee on land revenue payable by the cultivators.

* * *

Crop Competition Craze

The crop competitions are becoming increasingly popular in U.P. Over a dozen Gram Sabhas have thrown challenges for producing over 40 mds. of paddy per acre and 35 mds. of maize per acre during the ensuring kharif.

* * *

Gramdan Villages

That Gramdan releases new enthusiasm for social and economic reconstruction is borne out by the diverse activities undertaken by the residents of gramdan villages in Maharashtra for reordering and refashioning their life and economy.

Take for example, Bijur in Chandgad taluka. It has taken steps to provide employment to every member of the rural community, to step up production and to organise co-operative farming. Prior to gramdan, people had work for only six months in the year. Now every one has gainful employment for the whole year round.

Gavse is another village in which sixteen families with 100 members have come together to live as one family. At the start there was disparity in the matter of land ownership. Out of 550 acres of land in the village, as many as 47 acres were owned by one person. Two villagers were landless. The villagers, however, decided to "rise or fall together". They pooled their land and produce, and divided those amongst themselves on a basis of equality. The ownership of land now vests in the gram swaraj society. It was decided to till the land collectively. Since production was to be shared equally, they were enthused to apply themselves wholeheartedly to the work on the land. Mutual co-operation has solved many other problems. One such was the problem of looking after the cattle in the village. So far one member from each of the sixteen families used to perform this duty. The problem was solved by deputing two persons to do the job. Thus, the remaining persons were relieved for work on the farms.

In the same way, one woman was charged with the task of looking after the children in the village and the energies and services of all were diverted to the improvement of agriculture.

In Nivaje village, the local population joined hands to build a godown for storing grains. The villagers also erected a school building through shramdan. The real test of the villagers, however, came when the house of a Harijan was gutted in fire. They considered it their responsibility to rehabilitate him. He was given grains enough for one year's needs by the village.

* * *

Village Development Through Voluntary Effort

An outstanding example of notable success through determination and voluntary efforts has been set by a small hamlet. Keolari in the Jabera Development Block of the Damoh district. Keolari is situated 3 milles away from village Nohata on the Damoh-Jabalpur road and has a population of only 161 souls. The village has a small area of 738 acres of which 278 acres of land is under cultivation.

The small village of Keolari of only 161 souls in Damoh district of Madhya Pradesh got a prize of Rs. 250 for being the best village in 1959-60. The entire cultivated area of the village is sown with improved seeds. Green manure has been applied on 50 acres. 20 acres of fields have been bunded, 16 acres of fallow land has been broken and brought under the plough, chemical fertilizers have been applied on 100 acres and 25 additional acres of land has been brought

(Continued on page 20)

Around the States

ANDHRA PRADESH

Seperate Panchayati Raj Department:

THE ANDHRA PRADESH Government, have decided to create a separate Department of Panchayati Raj with a Commissioner as its head, to be exclusively incharge of Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads.

* * *

State level Sammelan:

Government of Andhra Pradesh convened a State level Sammelan in September 1961 for a period of four days for discussing matters relating to Panchayati Raj.

* * *

GUJARAT

Three-day Seminar:

In Gujarat, a three-day seminar on Democratic Decentralisation was held at Mangrol from 25th to 27th May, 1961 and several suggestions were made to the State Government in the Seminar for consideration while drafting the State Panchayati Raj Bill.

* * *

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Land Revenue Collection:

The entrustment of land revenue collection work to Panchayats as also handing over of a proportion of land revenue to them are under the consideration of the Administration.

* * *

MADHYA PRADESH

Seven Training Institutions:

In Madhya Pradesh, seven, training institutions are proposed to be started at the rate of one in each Division for the training of Panchayat Secretaries. Two such training institutions are already functioning at Indore and Jabalpur.

* * *

MADRAS

Study Course Training:

The Government of Madras have decided that a five-day study course training in Madras Panchayat Act, 1958, in 3 batches should be organised for B.D.Os who will be appointed as Panchayat Commissioners.

* * *

Panchayat and Revenue Staff Co-operation:

The Government of Madras have ordered that Panchayat Development Staff Meetings should be held once in a month to bring together the Block Staff and the Taluka Revenue Staff so that they would work together in close co-operation, in furtherance of Panchayati Raj.

* * *

Powers of Panchayat Union Council:

Among the statutory responsibilities vested in a Panchayat Union Council, is the opening, maintenance, expansion and improvement of Elementary School (including payment of grants to private managements in respect of Elementary Schools). In this connection, the State Government have issued orders that the Panchayat Union Councils should consult the Local Panchayats in the area before opening new schools or new classes in existing schools and regarding the location of such schools.

* * *

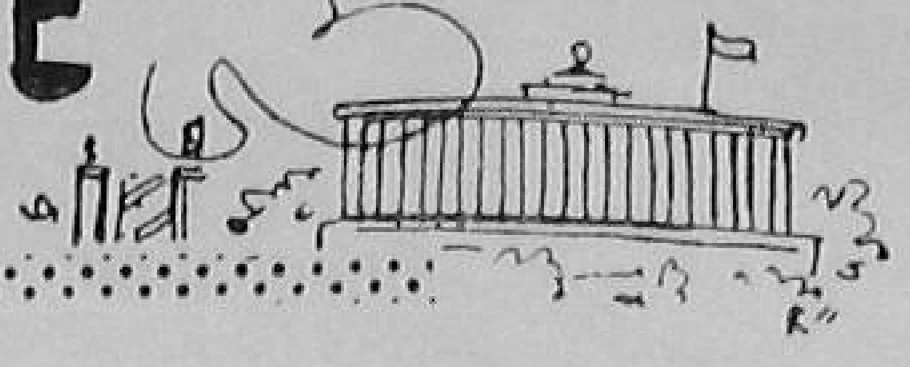
BIHAR

Panchayats to Collect Rent:

About 2,000 village Panchayats were recently given charge of rent and loan collection work in their areas. They could collect more than 50% of the rent on an average and in many cases their collection was about 90%. In view of this, the State Government have issued a circular to entrust rent collection work to all Gram Panchayats.

* * *

FROM THE CENTRE



Gram Sabha—The Base of Panchayati Raj

THE UNION MINISTRY of Community Development and Co-operation has asked all the State Governments to grant recognition to the Gram Sabhas as statutory bodies. While some of the State Governments have already done so, others are expected to follow suit. Among other functions entrusted to the Gram Sabha are the following:

a. To discuss and make suggestions on the draft annual budget and annual programme of the Panchayat.

b. To consider and make comments on the Annual Administration Report of Panchayat.

c. To consider proposals for fresh taxation or enhanced taxation and any new programme not covered by the budget and the Annual programme.

d. To consider proposals for organising community service, voluntary labour or mobilization of the local people for any specific work included in the annual or supplementary programme.

e. Consideration of the Annual Audit Report of the Panchayat.

f. If one hundred or a minimum of 20% of the members of the Gram Sabha requisition a meeting in writing at any time to discuss any matter assigned to the Gram Sabha, the President of the Panchayat should be required to convene a meeting of the Gram Sabha within specified period.

* * *

Co-option to Panchayati Raj Institutions

Keeping in view the fact that the system of co-option to various Panchayat bodies is liable to be misused and has been subjected to varying criticism by the public, the Central Government have drawn the attention of all State Governments to ensure that co-option to the main bodies is confined to Scheduled castes, Scheduled Tribes and women who are elected by the non-official members only. It has further been stressed that the Sarpanches should not be empowered to nominate persons of their choice to the reserved seats in the Panchayats. The co-option of specialists has been limited to the Standing Committees only.

* * *

Panchayat and Co-op. Society Relationship

The Government of India have set up a Working Group to study the relationship between village panchayats and village co-operatives and to suggest measures to make them function harmoniously and play a complementary role to one another. Shri S. D. Misra, Parliamentary Secretary to the Union Ministry for Community Development and Co-operation will act as the Chairman. The terms of reference of the Working Group are:—

a. to study the working of panchayati raj in its relationship to and its impact on co-operatives in some selected States;

b. to suggest measures whereby co-operatives and panchayats can perform their respective roles without conflict and strengthen one another.

c. to suggest demarcation of responsibilities between the panchayat and co-operative institution;

d. to suggest concrete measures for securing co-ordination between the two sets of institutions.

* * *

Sammelans for Non-official Workers

The Government of India, as an experimental measure, have worked out a tentative scheme for organising Sammelans at different levels for non-official workers of Panchayati Raj institutions. The objective is to help orientation and exchange of ideas of the workers of the three-tier bodies.

According to the scheme, Sammelans at village, block, District and State levels are to be held wherein members of Gram Sabhas at village level; Panches, Upsarpanches, Sarpanches, members of Block Panchayat Samitis and Block officials at Block level; members of Zila Parishads, members of all Block Panchayat Samitis of the District and District officials at District level; and Presidents of Zila Parishads, Presidents of Block Panchayat Samitis, selected Sarpanches and Panches and State officers at State level, can participate.

The details of the scheme are as follows:—

(i) *The village Sammelans*—These Sammelans will be conducted by Village Panchayat taking advantage of local traditions and coinciding with local *melas,* fairs and festivals. The objectives underlying the Community Development Programme and Panchayati Raj will be explained to the gathering by local leaders and officials. Such a Sammelan will be organised at least once a year by the Village Panchayat in association with the Block staff.

(ii) *Block Sammelans.*—At the Block headquarters at least one Sammelan per year of two days' duration will be arranged by the Block Development Committee/Block Panchayat Samiti. On an average, about 5 persons may be invited from each Village Panchayat including the Sarpanch besides the Block officials and the members of the Block Panchayat Samiti.

(iii) *District Sammelans.*—At the headquarters of each District the Zila Parishads will call a Sammelan of two days' duration each year. Besides, the members of Zila Parishads, the invitees may be members of all Block Samitis in the District and District officials.

(iv) *State level Sammelans.*—The Sammelans may be organised for Pramukhs (Presidents of Zila Parishads), Pradhans (Presidents of Block Panchayat Samitis), and selected Sarpanches and Panches. Ministers of the State Government, the Development Commissioner, Secretaries and Heads of Development Departments and selected Government officials from different levels may also participate in these Sammelans. The Zila Parishads might be given the opportunity to conduct these Sammelans at their headquarters by turn. The State Governments are free to decide the venue, size and the time cycle of the Sammelans. The duration of these Sammelans may be 3—5 days.

No direct Central financial assistance will be available for village, block and District Sammelans. The entire expenditure would have to be normally borne by the village Panchayats, Block Panchayat Samitis, and Zila Parishads. The participants may also be asked to contribute, and the State Governments may consider the possibilities of giving assistance to these Sammelans in such manner as they may consider appropriate.

In regard to the State level Sammelans also, much of the expenditure is expected to be met through local contribution raised by the people and their organisations. The Government contribution should not exceed Rs. 50 per non-official participant, and this will be shared between the State and Central Governments in the ratio of 50 : 50. Whatever extra expenditure over and above Rs. 50 per head, if any, is incurred should be met out of local contributions. To ensure the participation of as large a number of persons as possible at these Sammelans, the Zila Parishads, Block Panchayat Samitis and Village Panchayats concerned may also be requested to meet a portion of the cost of the T.A. and D.A. of their representatives.

NATIONAL INTEGRATION

(Continued from page 8)

the purpose of modern education, and more especially for scientific and technical subjects. Every effort should be made to develop Hindi and the other languages for this purpose. Till such time as this happens, English may be continued. English would continue to be used as an associate language for all-India official purposes even after Hindi becomes the all-India official language.

* * *

THE GROWTH of the regional languages of India and their progressive use in education makes it essential to develop rapidly an all-India language for inter-state communication, a purpose which has thus far been served by English. Although English will continue as such medium for some time to come, it was held that urgent steps should be taken to promote Hindi so as to fulfil that purpose as early as possible. A common script for all India languages was not only desirable, but would be a powerful link between the different languages of India and, therefore, of great help in bringing about integration. Such a common script in India in existing circumstances can only be Devanagari. While it may be difficult to adopt a common script in the near future, this objective should be kept in mind and worked for.

* * *

WHILE THE official language is meant largely for official purposes, for communication with the public, the objective should be that the great majority of the people should be in a position to understand what they are told. Therefore, wherever publicity is required, other languages in use in the area should be employed, even apart from official language.

Where at least sixty per cent of the population of a district speaks or uses a language of the minority group, it should be recognised as an official language in that district, in addition to the State official language.

In recruitment to State Services under the State Government, language should not be a bar. Therefore, besides the official language of the State, option should be given of using English or Hindi as the medium of examination. A test of proficiency in the State official language should be held after selection and before the end of probation.

THIS HAPPENED IN A VILLAGE

(Continued from page 14)

lazy. Without proper exercise, their health would deteriorate." It was insinuated that the project was sponsored by the Jagirdar solely for his benefit and, therefore, it should be dropped. They held meetings only to be boycotted. They agitated through the press only to become more unpopular. They sent applications to higher authorities but to be rejected. The womenfolk of the township nicknamed the leader of the opposition as the 'Ravan of Kunari'. The struggle went on. One fine morning in 1956, there was great hustle and bustle in the village of Kunari. Many officers, and distinguished visitors from outside had come to witness the inauguration ceremony of the Waterworks Project in the village. The women were full of joy and satisfaction. Their dream had been realised. They had succeeded in making available piped water supply to individual homes. Their achievement was not without a sense of pride in as much as they had scored the victory in spite of stiff opposition by a section of the male population.

COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE

(Continued from page 16)

under irrigation. The old method of paddy cultivation is being replaced gradually by the Japanese method of cultivation and an area of 50 acres has been brought under this method.

There is complete amity in the village and all the farmers' families have become the members of the local co-operative society. They have a library, a dramatic club a farmers' club and a Mahila Mandal. The village sanitation is looked after by the entire community and they have a medicine chest for the treatment of minor ailments. They have also built a community centre at a cost of Rs. 2,000 and a road over 1,000 feet long.

BEST GRAM SEVAK OF THE YEAR

SHRI RAGHBIR SINGH MANDHAR

HE was adjudged country's best Gram Sevak for the year 1960-61 for his work in Sanahwal circle of Ludhiana Community Development Block in Punjab. Having previously served as a Sub-Inspector in the Agriculture Department for several years, he joined as a Gram Sevak in 1956 and was adjudged as the best worker in the field in this year's competition. (The full story regarding Shri Mandhar was published in Panchayati Raj of August 1961.

The Guardian Angel

Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, Faridabad, and published by the Director, Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Delhi-6, on behalf of the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation.

Regd. D—877